

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

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R 261036Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7820

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CT, LY

SUBJECT: QADDAFI VISIT OVERVIEW

REF: BANGUI 1983

1. LIBYAN PRESIDENT QADDAFI LEFT BANGUI OCTOBER 20 WILL FULL MILITARY HONORS. HIGHLIGHTS OF LATTER HALF OF HIS VISIT WERE PUBLIC ADDRESS AT NATIONAL SPORTS STADIUM TO AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 5000 COMPOSED OF STUDENTS AND PARTY FAITHFUL, DIPLOMATS AND LOCAL ISLAMIC COMMUNITY. QADDAFI EMPHASIZED IN A LONG AND EMOTIONAL ADDRESS THE VIRTUES OF ISLAM OVER CHRISTIANITY, CASTIGATING THE LATTER AS THE RELIGION OF COLONIALISTS AND IMPERIALISTS. HE ALSO SOUNDED ONE POLITICAL NOTE IN SUGGESTING THAT CAR SHOULD KEEP FIRM CONTROL OF ITS URANIUM DEPOSITS AND NOT ALLOW FRENCH AND OTHER IMPERIALISTS TO CONTROL THEM. FINAL PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF QADDAFI WAS AT SHOWING OF THREE AND HALF HOUR FEATURE FILM ON THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MOHAMMED.

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2. QADDAFI VISIT MUST BE REGARDED AS CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS FROM PERSPECTIVE OF VISIONARY AND MESSIANIC LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY. NOT ONLY HAS BOKASSA BECOME MUSLIM BUT INCREASING NUMBERS OF MINISTERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE FOLLOWED SUIT. LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTER HAS BEEN OPENED AND PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF ISLAMIC INFLUENCE SEEM GOOD.

3. FROM BOKASSA'S PERSPECTIVE ALSO VISIT MUST BE CONSIDERED SUCCESS. LIBYANS HAVE PUBLICLY PROMISED HIM 14 MILLION DOLLARS IN AID IN THE FORM OF CAPITAL FOR JOINT COMPANIES. THEY MAY HAVE PROVIDED MORE PRIVATELY. (BOKASSA AND FAMILY MEMBERS AND MINISTERS EACH RECEIVED ONE MILLION CFA AS CONVERSION BONUS.) BOKASSA CAN NOW BE EXPECTED TO BE WELCOMED IN WHOLE RANGE OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES AND CHANCES OF AID FROM OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES HAS BEEN ENHANCED. NO DOUBT A PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA WILL BE IN THE OFFING. BOKASSA SEEMS TO HAVE PAID ONLY A SMALL PRICE IN TERMS OF MODIFYING HIS POLITICAL PRINCIPLES. COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VISIT IS STILL NOT AVAILABLE HERE AND WE DO NOT YET KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT BOKASSA WAS OBLIGED TO SIGN ON TO ANY DAMAGING RADICAL LIBYAN RHETORIC. FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN DIPLOMATS, HOWEVER, DOUBT THERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN CAR POLICIES.

4. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE FROM BOKASSA'S POINT OF VIEW, AND HE MAY WELL NOT BE AWARE OF IT, IS THAT HIS CONVERSION TO ISLAM HAS BEEN REGARDED WITH CONSIDERABLE CYNICISM AND EVEN SCORN BY CENTRAL AFRICANS. CREDIBILITY OF HPS IMAGE IS ERODED BY HIS CONVERSION AS IT WILL BE FURTHER IF HE GOES AHEAD WITH WHAT IS NOW STRONGLY RUMORED PROCLAMATION OF AN EMPIRE ON DECEMBER 1.
QUAINTON

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